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Choice Scholarship Program Eligibility Requirements 2016-2017 School Year

To be eligible, a student must satisfy each of the following requirements:

- Have legal settlement in Indiana
- Be between the ages of 5 and 22 no later than August 1 of the school year
- Be accepted for enrollment into a participating Choice Scholarship School

After satisfying the requirements listed above, there are seven different pathways that enable a student to become eligible to participate in the Choice Scholarship Program. The seven pathways, labeled 1 through 7, are outlined below. A student must satisfy **ONLY ONE** of the seven pathways to be eligible.

1. Continuing Choice Scholarship Student Pathway

- The student received a Choice Scholarship in the school year that immediately precedes the school year for which the student is applying for a Choice Scholarship.
- The student is required to have remained enrolled at the Choice School for the entirety of the immediately preceding school year.
- The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 200% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

2. Previous Choice Scholarship Student Pathway

- The student received a Choice Scholarship in a school year that does not immediately precede the school year for which the student is applying for a Choice Scholarship.
- The student received a Choice Scholarship in the immediately preceding school year but the student exited the Choice School prior to the end of the school year.
- The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 150% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

3. Previous SGO Award Pathway

- The student received an SGO Scholarship in a previous school year, including a school year that does not immediately precede the school year for which the student is applying for a Choice Scholarship.
- The six approved Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) are:
 - ☐ Elkhart County Community Foundation
 - ☐ Institute for Quality Education (Formerly Educational Choice Charitable Trust)
 - ☐ School Scholarship Granting Organization of Northeast Indiana
 - ☐ Tuition Assistance Fund of Southwestern Indiana (Closed)
 - ☐ Sagamore Institute Scholarships for Education Choice
 - ☐ The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana

- iii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 150% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

4. Special Education Pathway

- i. The student has a disability that requires special education.
- ii. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) pursuant to IC 20-35 or a Service Plan (SP) pursuant to 511 IAC 7-34 has been developed for the student.
- iii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 200% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

5. “F” Public School Pathway

- i. The student would be required to attend a specific public school based on their residence that has been assigned an “F” grade. Note: This pathway does not require prior attendance at the school.
- ii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 150% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

6. Two-Semesters in Public School Pathway

- i. The student was enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 in a public school, including a charter school, in Indiana for at least two semesters immediately preceding the first semester for which the individual receives a Choice Scholarship.
- ii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 150% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

7. Sibling Pathway

- i. The sibling of the newly applying student received either a Choice Scholarship or an SGO Scholarship in a preceding school year, including a school year that does not immediately precede the school year for which the student is applying for a Choice Scholarship.
- ii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 150% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

Clarifications:

- Kindergarten students are eligible to apply.
- Kindergarten attendance satisfies the two semesters in public school requirement.
- The A through F grades issued in the Fall of 2015 for school performance in the 2014-2015 school year will be used to determine the F schools for eligibility purposes for the 2016-2017 Choice Scholarship Program.
- For purposes of the Choice Scholarship Program, the term “sibling” shall mean one of two or more individuals having one or both parents, guardians or custodians in common. The term does not require a consanguineous (blood) relationship between the individuals.
- To be eligible under the Sibling Pathway, the student’s sibling had to receive a Choice Scholarship or SGO Award in a previous year.